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REMARKS

OCT 16 2006

In a teleconference between the Examiner and the undersigned on September 22, 2006, the Examiner agreed that his reliance on Sheeran et al. in the final Office action was misplaced. This is because Sheeran fails to disclose one or more end caps having a body portion including first and second ends configured for coupling to ends of adjacent end caps. Instead, Sheeran discloses a stator assembly 10 including stator segments 20 sandwiched between two containment structures 30 and 40. The containment structures 30 and 40 each comprise a flexible plastic strip defining several pockets, with the stator segments 20 positioned within the pockets. See paragraphs 0020 and 0026. Further, a projection 700 and a receptive element 702 are provided on the ends of the containment structure 30. The purpose of the projection 700 and the receptive element 702 is to engage the opposite ends of a single containment structure 30 to hold the containment structure 30 in an annular form. See Figs. 7A-B and paragraph 0053. The containment structure 40 also includes a projection 700 and a receptive element 702 for the same purpose as described above with respect to the containment structure 30.

In view of the above, the Examiner asked the undersigned to file this response after final, and indicated he will withdraw the section §102 and §103 rejections based on Sheeran. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that, because the pending claims define over all prior art of record, the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

OCT 16 2006

CLARIFICATION OF RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the restriction requirement mailed April 28, 2005, the claims of Group I were indicated as "drawn to an end cap." However, some of the original claims in Group I recited a stator or an electromagnetic machine having a stator segment and an end cap for such stator segment. Accordingly, applicant believes the claims of Group I were restricted to an end cap, a stator or an electromagnetic machine having a stator segment and an end cap for such stator segment. In contrast, applicant believes the claims of Group II were restricted to an end cap, a stator or an electromagnetic machine (or related methods) having a *plurality of stator segments* and a *plurality of end caps*. Assuming this is correct, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are properly directed to the previously elected Group II.

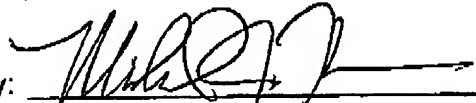
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OCT 16 2006

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7500.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 16, 2006By:   
Michael J. Thomas  
Reg. No. 39,857

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
7700 Bonhomme, Suite 400  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
(314) 726-7500

MJT/mg